

Nevada County Transportation Commission

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates state and federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

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The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published quarterly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write or call the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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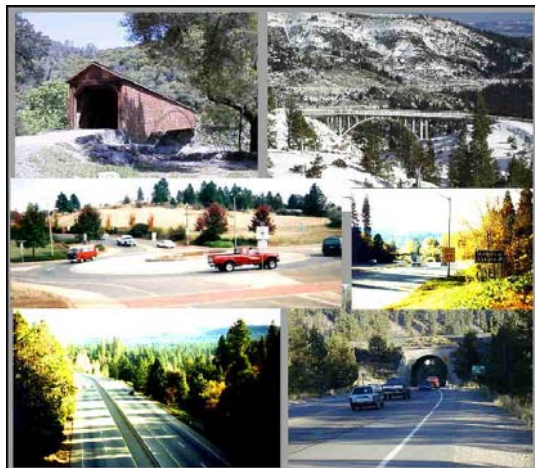
Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is scheduled on:

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 8:30 a.m., Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA.

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101 Providence Mine Road, Suite 102
 Nevada City, CA 95959



NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Issue 29

"Creating a better future by building upon successes of the past"

September 2006



Public Workshops to be Held for Three Nevada County Projects

The City of Grass Valley has invited the public to a special workshop on August 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to receive comments on the Dorsey Drive Interchange project.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is in the process of setting up workshops for the public to review and comment on plans for the SR 49/La Barr Meadows Road signalization and widening project, and the SR 89 "Mousehole" widening project in Truckee.

The **Dorsey Drive Interchange** project team at Caltrans have finalized the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) phase of planning. The next step for the team is to move forward with the final design and to prepare right-of-way maps for the project.

A Value Engineering Analysis will be conducted to insure that the best design and plans are being carried forward. Also, it was decided at the July 19th NCTC meeting to invite local jurisdiction representatives to participate in an Ad Hoc Committee to review this regionally significant project, and to gather community comments to be considered in the final design.

The City of Grass Valley has placed a sales tax measure on the November ballot to help fund the Dorsey Drive Interchange. Many residents and local businesses support the tax measure as a way to hasten construction of this project to alleviate traffic congestion in the well-traveled corridor between the Brunswick Basin and the Idaho-Maryland Road/East Main Street intersection.



Proposed full interchange with all ramps shown for the Dorsey Drive Interchange at SR 20/49

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Countywide Bicycle Master Plan

Funds have been included in the NCTC FY 2006/07 Overall Work Program to update the countywide Bicycle Master Plan.



Bicyclist heading up Ridge Road

A consultant will be hired to integrate information from previous planning efforts with input from citizens and representatives of the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, Nevada County, and the Town of Truckee to create a draft Bicycle Master Plan. The public will also be given an opportunity to share their ideas regarding bicycle facilities before the report is finalized.

When the countywide update to the plan is completed, jurisdictions in the County will be eligible to submit projects for grant funding through a competitive State grant program. 

Public Workshops - Continued



Intersection of La Barr Meadows Road and SR 49

The **SR 49 /La Barr Meadows Road** signalization and five lane widening project is on schedule and environmental information is being reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration. The Draft Environmental Document will be released to the public for review in conjunction with the **tentatively scheduled September 20th workshop**. During their preliminary investigation, Caltrans determined through the noise study that sound walls would need to be discussed as an option along this portion of the SR 49 corridor. Animal crossings are also being investigated.

The **Truckee SR 89 Railroad Underpass** (locally referred to as the “Mousehole”) widening project addresses pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic through the underpass. At the June California Transportation Commission meeting, Caltrans was designated as the lead agency. A Project Development Team meeting was held on June 15th to review the technical study, introduce the team, and discuss the next steps to be taken on the project. Caltrans is at work accumulating data for the design work. **An open house for the public will be held sometime this fall in Truckee.** [NCTC](#)



Truckee “Mousehole” on SR 89 to be widened

New NCTC Commissioner

The NCTC would like to welcome Sally Harris as our newest Commissioner from the City of Nevada City. She replaces Conley Weaver who served on the Commission for two years.

Sally Harris was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up in Santa Barbara, often visiting relatives in Nevada County and the family’s gold mine near Downieville. Her gold rush roots are what drew Sally to settle in Nevada City. She served as a Nevada County Civil Grand Juror for the fiscal year 2002/2003 and was elected to the Nevada City Council in 2004. She has represented Nevada City on the City Finance Committee, the NCTV Advisory Board, the Nevada County Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission and the Economic Resources Council Board and its Executive Committee. She is also the scholarship committee chair for the Gold Country Chapter of the California Alumni Association. She holds both a B.S. in Finance and Applied Economics and an MBA in Finance from U.C. Berkeley. Her professional background is in banking and corporate finance and she currently is the Finance Director for *The Union* newspaper. She enjoys hiking, fishing, all forms of skiing and loves a good novel. [NCTC](#)



“The Bridges of Nevada County” – Part 7

When you travel into or out of portions of Nevada County you cross the Bear River, which runs along the south portion of the County. There are numerous **“Bear River Bridges”** but none of them have fancy names. They are all designated by the roadway they are built on: SR 174 heading from Colfax into Grass Valley, a one lane bridge that crosses the river at Dog Bar Road, and the bridge on SR 49 just north of the Placer County line. Caltrans is responsible for maintenance of the SR 49 and SR 174 bridges, and the Nevada County Department of Transportation and Sanitation (DOTS) shares the responsibility of the Dog Bar Road Bridge with Placer County.

#1: The “old” **Bear River Bridge at SR 174** (pictured to the right) was built in 1924 and was the first concrete bridge at the site. It is a Roman style single arch design constructed in a continuous pour method. Since 1852, bridges near this area served as the gateway to western Nevada County. In 1986 the Colfax Highway Association saved the bridge from demolition, and today hikers use the bridge to access a two-mile trail that goes downstream. A newer bridge was built next to this one to accommodate vehicle traffic on SR 174.



The “historic” Bear River Bridge at SR 174 is used by pedestrians to access a hiking trail.

#2: Local residents who travel south on **Dog Bar Road** from Grass Valley to its end in Weimar know this **one lane bridge** over the **Bear River** (shown below) and how it provides a serene view upstream or downstream as you wait your turn to travel over it.



A car traveling over the one-lane bridge on Dog Bar Road



A view of the Bear River Bridge at Dog Bar Road

#3: And last but not least is the five-lane **Bear River Bridge** completed in July 2004 on **SR 49** just north of the Placer County line. The NCTC Commissioners played a big role in acquiring the enhancement features of stone, wood-like beams, and painted railings for the bridge (see below). The previous structure was a two-lane bridge that bottlenecked commute traffic back to Placer County on busy evenings.



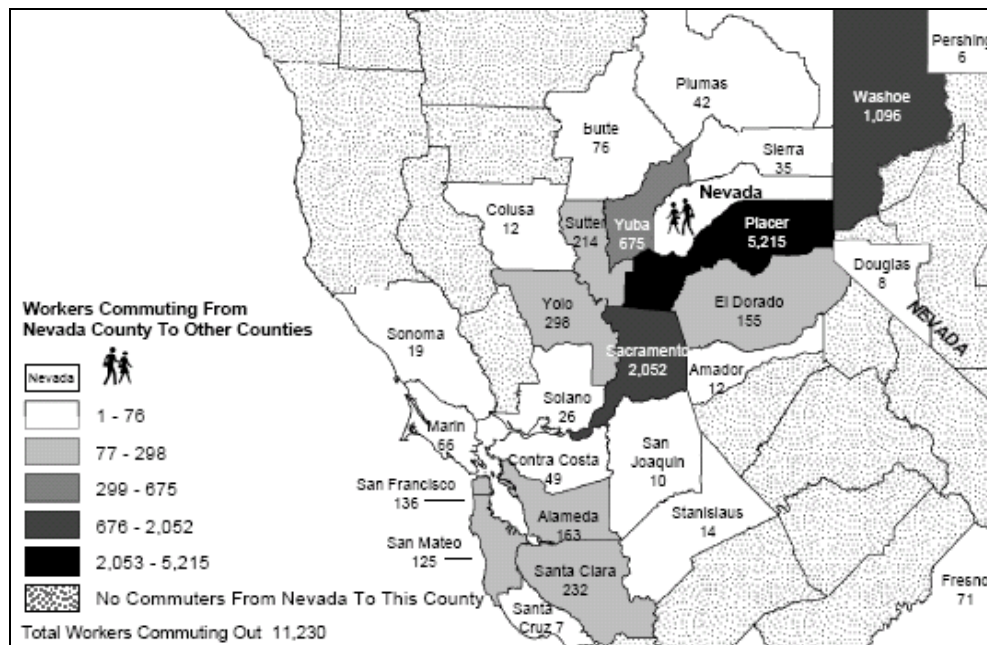
Five-lane Bear River Bridge on SR 49 completed in July 2004



Special enhancements of stone, wood-like beams, and painted railings

[NCTC](#) Portions of the information in this article were taken from <http://wwwnevadacountythingstodo.com/hiking/bearriver/>

Telecommuting and Nevada County



Telecommuting opportunities could reduce the number of people traveling out of the county to work, therefore reducing emissions and congestion on our roads and slowing down the road deterioration.

At the July 19, 2006 NCTC meeting, the Commission approved sending a letter to SACOG (Sacramento Area Council of Governments) and MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), sister agencies to the NCTC in Sacramento and the Bay Area. The letter encouraged the promotion of telecommuting to reduce vehicle emissions from their regions that impact ozone levels in the Sierras. At the meeting Commissioner Steele stated when Sacramento increased their stay-at-home telecommuters by 1%, it took 11,000 vehicles a day off the freeways.

A bill (AB 32) is currently under discussion in the California Legislature that would require a decrease of greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels in four years, and in fourteen years require the emissions to be brought down to 1990 levels. If passed, AB 32 would make California the first state to set caps on emissions from industry and automobiles. [NCTC](#)